

Commissioners

MARISEL A. HERNANDEZ, *Chair*
WILLIAM J. KRESSE, *Commissioner/Secretary*
JONATHAN T. SWAIN, *Commissioner*
LANCE GOUGH, *Executive Director*



Board of Election Commissioners for the City of Chicago
Minutes of Regular Board Meeting
July 23, 2019, 9:30 a.m.

69 West Washington Street, 8th Floor Conference Room, Chicago, Illinois 60602

Board Members:

Marisel A. Hernandez, Chairwoman
William J. Kresse, Commissioner/Secretary
Jonathan T. Swain, Commissioner

Staff:

Lance Gough, Executive Director
Charles Holiday, Assistant Executive Director
Adam W. Lasker, General Counsel
James P. Allen, Communications Director
Peter Peso, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
Opal Walls, Purchasing Agent
Bill Perez, Hispanic Outreach Coordinator
LaCretia Dandridge, Manager-Human Resources
Sarita Villarreal, Consultant
Gary Ryczyn
Trupti Patel, Law Clerk
Geneva Morris, Videographer
Trish Sheehy

Guests:

Helene Gabelnick, League of Women Voters of Chicago (LWV Chicago)
C. Betty Magnus, Rainbow P.U.S.H.
Geoff Ryan, ES&S
John Poulus, Dominion Voting
Sandy Hed, Election Works
Veronica H. Leonard, Documenters

- I. Call to Order: The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m.
- II. Roll Call: All members were present.
- III. Consideration of Agenda: The agenda was accepted as presented.
- IV. Approval of Minutes:
 - A. Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of June 11, 2019: Commissioner Swain moved to approve the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of June 11, 2019. Commissioner Kresse seconded the motion. The motion passed and the Minutes were approved by 3:0 vote of the Board.
- V. Executive Director's Report

- Executive Director Lance Gough, along with the group that will be reviewing the new voting equipment Request for Proposal (RFP) responses have a meeting scheduled for Thursday. They are hopeful that they will have a report to the Board by the end of July.
- Illinois State Senate Bill 2090 (SB2090) passed. SB2090 addresses pre-trial detainee voting and provisions for providing persons released from jail with information on their voting rights. The ACLU will give pamphlets to those released. We have been working with the ACLU regarding the pamphlets. The ACLU wants us to be present when the Governor signs the bill. The time and location have not yet been determined.
- The International Association of Government Officials (I-GO) held a meeting in Houston. Assistant Executive Director Charles Holiday and General Counsel Adam Lasker attended and took classes during the conference. Mr. Gough met with each of the members of the Election Assistance Commission (EAC).
- We are attempting to set a meeting with the Postmaster General here in Chicago regarding services for our voting materials.

A. Assistant Executive Director Mr. Charles Holiday reported:

- He attended the I-GO conference, and found it very enlightening.
- Voter histories have been processed for the February and April 2019 elections.
- Responses from Aldermen/Committeepersons regarding precinct reduction has been slow. If there is no reply, we may want to consider reducing a smaller number of precincts.

Mr. Gough added that we had sent out maps regarding redistricting. We have had little response, but some elected officials have asked why we are redistricting precincts before the census.

Commissioner Swain confirmed that three reasons we are trying to reduce the number of precincts is 1) to have more Judges of Elections turn out per precinct, 2) to help eliminate partially accessible polling places, and 3) the continuing issue of finding polling place locations. Commissioner Swain stated he was surprised as to the low response. It will be best, and smarter, to have this done by 2020.

Mr. Gough added that we may have to knock on doors.

Mr. Holiday stated that locations with Judges of Election shortages are being brought to the attention of the elected officials.

- Mr. Holiday reiterated that there will be a meeting on Thursday regarding new voting equipment.

B. Communications Director. Jim Allen reported:

- We are currently working on 4 projects:
 1. Canvass mailing/email solicitation mailing

Mr. Allen provided samples to the Board members for their critique. All of the Board members agreed that the sample with blue on the right-hand side that encourages the voter to email is the best of the samples.

Mr. Allen stated that the bid for printing will be opened later this week and will poll each Board member in order to have the mailing out around April 22nd, a little before Labor Day. Mr. Gough added that he wants the mailing out before

petition filing. Mr. Allen stated that for the statutory 90 day limit, we don't have to do the canvass until October or early November.

2. Continuity/contingency plan. We are continuing to meet and develop continuity and contingency plans.
3. Webpage content. We should be done updating webpage content in the next two days, but they will still need to be translated.
4. Budget documents for Cook County. We are preparing budget documents to submit to the Cook County Board.

VI. Old Business

- A. Infrastructure Projects and Changes in Election Administration: Already discussed.
- B. Electronic Poll Books: Mr. Holiday stated that ES&S is still having weekly meetings with us to finalize ADA data with the e-poll books.
- C. Voting Equipment: Already discussed.
- D. Legislation. General Counsel Adam Lasker reported:
 - As mentioned, SB2090 was passed regarding pretrial detainees. Messrs. Holiday and Lasker are meeting with Jail and County Clerk representatives to coordinate implementation. Now that the Cook County Jail will be an actual polling place, poll watchers will be allowed to attend during voting. However, the new law allows the jail to screen poll watchers. As such, organizations that receive credentials will have to know that the Jail may conduct some screening, and the organizations and campaigns will have to coordinate their poll watchers with Jail officials.
 - The Governor signed into law legislation that prohibits any municipality or other local government which introduces term limit restrictions from including years of service prior to the term limit being put into place.
- E. Professional Services Agreement between Board of Election Commissioners for the City of Chicago and JPA Consulting Group, Inc.

Commissioner Kresse moved to approve a Professional Services Agreement between the Board of Election Commissioners for the City of Chicago and JPA Consulting Group, Inc. for the purpose of media issues, public relations, strategic planning, community outreach and community services as directed by the Board for the period of July 1, 2019 – through June 30, 2020 at a rate of \$12,500/month, in addition to any reimbursement for expenses incurred when performing business for the Board. Commissioner Swain seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote of the Board.

VII. New Business: None.

VIII. Legal Report. General Counsel Adam Lasker reported:

- Last week oral arguments in the Ward 5 election contest were heard. Judge Clay-Herron ruled in favor of the Board. Mr. Lasker received indication that Calloway may appeal.
- We have been receiving calls regarding candidate petitions (which cannot begin circulating before September 3rd). The Illinois State Board of Elections (ISBE) expects to publish their calendar

and guides in mid-August. We get information for our calendar from the ISBE and from the Cook County Clerk's publications.

IX. Financial Report

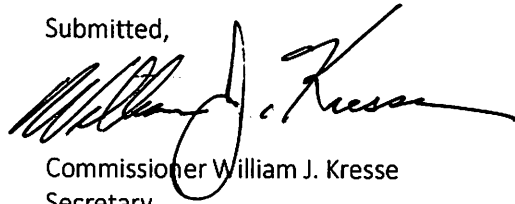
A. Balance Sheet and Voucher Listings for the City of Chicago – 2019 Appropriation – 19-03 dated July 23, 2019 in the amount of \$ 1,630,020.76. Commissioner Swain moved to approve the Balance Sheet and Voucher Listing. Commissioner Kresse seconded the motion. The motion passed by a 3:0 vote of the Board.

X. Public Comment: None

XI. Executive Session: None

XII. Adjournment. Commissioner Kresse moved to adjourn until the next regularly scheduled meeting of August 13th at 9:30 a.m. Commissioner Swain seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote of the Board. The meeting adjourned at 9:57 a.m.

Submitted,



Commissioner William J. Kresse
Secretary